

1899, only two called for any thinking power as distinguished from mere memory; in January, 1900, again, only two call for evidence of any appreciation of history, from either the literary or the political point of view, and the geography questions only were marked as compulsory.

#### THE CONDUCT OF THE EXAMINATIONS.

The question of the order of papers might well be considered. Mathematics should be put on the second day at every examination in which that subject is included. An easier subject is best on the first day, as candidates, especially at matriculation, often suffer from "stage fright." The present matriculation order is optional subject (a language other than Latin, or a science) Latin, English, mathematics, general science; a better order would be optional subject, mathematics, Latin, general science, and English.

In view of the present long strain of the 27 hours written work one paper should be enough in English and possibly in Latin. If the suggestion in a preceding paragraph on this subject were carried out there would be only one paper in general science, though in a different subject each year. The decrease in the number and range of some of the subjects would help to relieve the evident strain, a strain which is complained of among boys also, though it is more apparent among girls. It is, unfortunately, impossible to require from a candidate for matriculation with other certificates, one of fair health, but a schoolmistress who would urge a markedly anæmic or choreic girl to go up for examination has mistaken her vocation. Something is being done at good schools to train girls by outdoor games as well as by intellectual work. One of these boarding-schools at least and several high schools have a medical woman to inspect the girls and regulate the course of study and exercise for individuals as required. The Girls' Public Day School Company continues to be behindhand in the matter of physical exercise, and requires too much home preparation. With the help of a medical inspector or inspectress the markedly neurotic might be discouraged from undertaking the strain of examinations, and induced to take up a life of open-air labour whenever possible.

Finally, it may be asked whether proper attention is given to the hygiene of the examination itself. At the examination last June, for instance, several girls became "faint," and had to be taken out by the invigilators (bulldogs) to recover in the cooler air of the corridor. This may have been due to the great heat, but it points to a very common defect of ventilation in most examination halls. The late move of the seat of the University to the Imperial Institute has not improved this matter of ventilation; the hall used for the women candidates for the B.A. last month had only two roof ventilators, and the air was very impure. Several candidates had to go outside for a short time. The room for the B.Sc. examination was better, as the authorities have just put in one or two windows. The large hall used for the M.B. examination was well supplied with windows, and the heavy atmosphere of the room even at 10 in the morning suggested that it had not been thoroughly aired in the interval. The fact that so many women candidates have to go out suggests that at all examinations where there are women candidates there should be a woman invigilator. This is not always the case; at a recent B.Sc. examination one girl retired from the examination because she was seized with diarrhoea (a common misfortune in nervous candidates whether male or female) and could not or would not explain matters to the male invigilator.

THE Darwin Medal of the Royal Society has been awarded to Professor Ernst Haeckel, for his long-continued and highly-important work in zoology, all of which has been inspired by the spirit of Darwinism. This medal, together with the other medals of the Royal Society, will be presented at the anniversary meeting on St. Andrew's Day, November 30th.

MARRIAGE OF THE UNFIT.—According to the *New York Medical Record*, at the meeting of the Tri State Medical Society of Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, recently held at Chattanooga, Tenn., steps were taken to obtain medical legislation in these three States for the purpose of regulating or prohibiting the marriage of habitual criminals, persons afflicted with incurable diseases, drunkards, and victims of harmful drugs.

#### MIDLAND MEDICAL UNION.

THE inaugural meeting of this Union was held at Nottingham on October 10th. Dr. SHEA, of Chesterfield, in the chair. Members from Nottingham, Derby, Belper, Mansfield, Chesterfield, and other places attended. The Nottingham and District Medical Union were received *en bloc* as members, and now constitute the Nottingham Branch of the Midland Medical Union.

#### INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Dr. Jepson, President of the Durham Medical Union, had kindly promised to deliver an address, but was prevented from being present. His address has since been printed and circulated amongst the members. Referring to the question of club practice, he points out that fifty years ago doctors consented to receive a few pence a week from members of clubs, so that the working man should pay something in acknowledgment for medical services rendered. Since that period the wages and conditions of the working classes have changed to the extent of 50 or 100 per cent. distinct advance. Are doctors lowering their dignity by saying that they wish to alter the scale of payment from the working classes? No alteration can be hoped for by the action of one individual; it must be made by a combination or union of doctors. Besides the payments from clubs there have also to be considered the fees from insurance societies, the badly-paid Poor-law system, hospital abuse, and the employment of unqualified assistants. Dr. Jepson urges that on many other grounds the profession should be organised; but chief of all they should keep before them the necessity of strengthening the General Medical Council. There is no desire to form a new medical association, but rather to improve and enlarge the existing British Medical Association. Dr. Jepson expresses the hope that the special Committee formed at Ipswich to inquire into its working will recommend the formation of an ethical department, and that many more Branches would be formed. His hope is that the different unions which are formed may merge into Branches of the Association, and that half of the business of each meeting of a Branch may be devoted to ethical subjects. The system of delegation must also be adopted, each union or Branch delegating one or more to express its views at a general meeting of the Association. The General Medical Council requires reconstruction if it is properly to represent the profession. Dr. Jepson does not believe in a Conciliation Board being arranged to adjust the differences between doctors and their clients.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

The following officers were elected: *President*: J. G. Shea, F.R.C.S.I., J.P., Chesterfield. *Vice President*: T. Geraty, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Nottingham. *Treasurer*: F. R. Mutch, M.D., Nottingham. *Honorary Secretaries (pro tem.)*: Dr. Houston, Shirebrook; Mr. Palmer, Mansfield Woodhouse. A representative Council was also elected.

A code of rules was adopted. The objects of the Union as set forth therein are:

(a) To protect the interests of members of this Association in every respect, but more particularly from unfair competition, and from any attempts that may be made to induce or compel medical practitioners to accept insufficient remuneration for professional services.

(b) To establish and maintain minimum rates of payment for medical contract work in relation to miners and all classes of workmen, members of friendly societies, sick and other clubs, lodges, insurance and other companies and societies.

The Executive hope that medical men in Notts, Derbyshire, and the neighbourhood will become members so that something may be done to improve rates of contract work, and deal with other matters of medico-political interest.

The Honorary Secretaries will be glad to give any information respecting the Union, and to receive names of those wishing to become members.

AMONG the wounded reported by Lord Roberts in his despatch dated Johannesburg, November 10th, was Surgeon Hartley, of Lovat's Scouts. We regret to learn that the wound was severe.

HOSPITALS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The *Clinical Review* of Chicago states that, according to official statistics, there are now about 2,500 hospitals and asylums proper in the United States, over 1,000 of these having been built during the past three years.